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### Stain Removal Chart

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

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# STAIN REMOVAL CHART

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SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE



# STAIN REMOVAL CHART




**STAIN**
**TREATMENT**

<b>Acids</b>	Rinse area with water immediately. Then apply a 10% ammonia solution to neutralize the acid. Rinse again with water. The ammonia sometimes restores lost color.
<b>Adhesive Tape</b>	Scrape the gummy matter from the stain carefully with a dull knife; avoid damaging fabric. Sponge with an approved grease solvent*.
<b>Alkalies</b>	Rinse the area with water immediately. Then apply diluted vinegar. Rinse again with water. The vinegar may restore lost color.
<b>Anti-Perspirants Deodorants</b>	Wash or sponge with detergent and warm water. Rinse. If color is lost sponge with a weak ammonia solution. This may restore the color.
<b>Blood or Meat Juice</b>	Sponge with cold water or soak in cool water for 30 minutes or longer. If stain remains, work a detergent into it, then rinse with weak ammonia water (3 table-spoons per gallon of water) if stain persists. If colors are not fast use an oxygen bleach or hydrogen peroxide.
<b>Candle Wax or Paraffin</b>	Harden with ice and scrape off as much as possible. Place stain between two clean white blotters or several layers of facial tissue and press with warm iron. Then sponge with an approved spot remover or hot water poured through on washable materials followed by a solvent.
<b>Carbon Paper (regular)</b>	Work a liquid detergent into the stain and rinse well. If stain is not removed put a few drops of household ammonia on stain and repeat detergent. Rinse well.
<b>(Duplicating)</b>	Sponge stain with alcohol. Dilute alcohol with 2 parts of water if used on acetate. If stain remains, rub with detergent—wash and rinse well. May need to use oxygen type bleach. (Alcohol will remove color from some fabrics.)
<b>Catsup, Chili Sauce, etc.</b>	Sponge with cool water or soak for 30 minutes or more. Follow with a detergent and rinse. For non-washable articles force cool water through stain with small syringe with a blotter under the fabric to absorb the water.
<b>Chewing Gum</b>	Scrape off without damaging fabric. Put an ice cube under the fabric or ice cubes in a plastic bag placed over the gum to harden it. Put raw egg white on the gum on leather and scrape off (such as on a shoe).



STAIN	TREATMENT
Chocolate or Cocoa	Wash in hot water. If brown stain persists sponge with an oxygen bleach.
Coffee and Tea	If safe for fabric, pour boiling water through the spot from a height of 1 to 3 feet.
Cosmetics—Rouge, Lipstick, Eye Shadow	Apply undiluted detergent then rinse well for washable articles. For non-washable articles, sponge with an approved grease solvent*. If stain still remains use method for washable articles.
Crayon	Follow directions for cosmetics stain removal.
Finger Nail Polish	Sponge stain with acetone or amyl acetate. Use the amyl acetate on <i>acetates</i> , <i>arnel</i> , <i>dynel</i> and <i>verel</i> . Acetone will damage these fabrics.
Fish Slime, Mucus, Vomit	Follow directions described for blood stain or treat stain with a luke warm solution of salt and water— $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt to 1 quart of water. Sponge stain with this solution or soak stain with this solution. Rinse well.
Fruit	Follow directions for blood stain or, if safe for fabric, pour boiling water through the spot from a height of 1 to 3 feet. Sponge at once with cool water if possible.
Grass, Flower Foliage	Work detergent into stain then rinse or if safe for the dye sponge with alcohol. Dilute alcohol with 2 parts of water for use on acetate. If stain remains use oxygen bleach.
Grease and Oils	For washable articles rub a liquid detergent into the stain and rinse well. <i>Dacron fabrics will keep the grease spot if not treated before washing.</i>
Ink—Ball Point	Sponge stain repeatedly with acetone or amyl acetate. Use the amyl acetate on acetate, arnel, dynel and verel. Old stains may also require bleaching. Washing often sets ball point stains.
Ink—India or Drawing	Treat at once. These are hard to remove if allowed to dry. Force water through stain to remove the color so it will not spread through the fabric. Wash with detergent then soak in warm suds containing 1 to 4 tablespoons of ammonia to a quart of water. If ammonia changes color, sponge with diluted vinegar.
Iodine	Soak in cool water. If stain remains rub with detergent and wash in warm suds. If alcohol is safe for the dye, cover with pad of cotton soaked in alcohol. This may take several hours. (Dilute with 2 parts of water for acetates.) For non-washable articles moisten the stain with water and hold in the steam from a boiling kettle or use the alcohol method.
Mercurochrome, Metaphene, Merthiolate	For washable articles soak over night in warm detergent solution which contains 4 tablespoons of ammonia to 1 quart of water. For non-washable articles if alcohol is safe for the dye, sponge with alcohol. (Dilute with 2 parts of water for acetates.) If alcohol is not safe for dye wet stain with liquid detergent; add a drop of ammonia with a medicine dropper. Rinse with water. Repeat if necessary.
Mildew	This is a mold growth in the fabric. Treat before the growth has a chance to weaken the fabric. Wash and dry in the sun. Follow with an oxygen or chlorine bleach if necessary. For non-washable articles send at once to a dry cleaner.



STAIN	TREATMENT
Mustard	Rub detergent into the spot and rinse. If not removed soak in hot detergent solution. If stain remains use a bleach. For non-washable articles if safe for dye sponge with alcohol.
Perspiration	Wash or sponge with detergent and warm water; work carefully because some fabrics are weakened by perspiration especially silk. If color is changed, try restoring color with ammonia for fresh stains. Vinegar for old stains and rinse with water. If safe for fabric remove any yellow stains with sodium perborate bleach or hydrogen peroxide.
Rust	Spread over a pan of boiling water and squeeze lemon juice over it; or sprinkle salt on stain and apply lemon juice—spread in sun or if fabric is washable boil the stained article in a pint of water containing 4 tablespoons of cream of tartar, or use a commercial rust remover and follow directions on the package.
Scorch	Follow the directions for blood, if article is washable. To remove light scorch on non-washable fabric use hydrogen peroxide (3% solution is safe for all fabrics). Moisten stain with a few drops and expose to sunlight, or for more severe stains cover with a cloth dampened in hydrogen peroxide. Cover with a dry cloth and press with an iron as hot as the fabric will stand. Rinse well. For surface scorch on heavy fabrics remove the damaged part with very fine sandpaper. Severe scorch cannot be removed. The fabric is damaged.
Shoe Polish	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Try directions for removing cosmetics stains.</li> <li>2. Try sponging with alcohol if safe for fabric.</li> <li>3. Try grease solvent or turpentine*.</li> <li>4. Try a bleach if safe for fabric.</li> </ol>
Soft Drinks	Follow directions for removing blood stains. When soft drink is spilled on a fabric sponge spot at once with cool water. Some are invisible when dry but turn yellow upon aging and with heat. This is caramelized sugar and is very hard to remove once it is in the fabric.
Smoke-Soot	Follow directions for removing cosmetics stains.
Tar	Sponge with approved solvent. If stain is not removed, sponge with turpentine.
Tobacco	Follow directions for grass stain removal.
Transfer Patterns	Use approved grease solvent*.
Urine	Follow directions for removing blood stains. If color is changed sponge with ammonia water. If this does not restore the color, sponge with diluted vinegar.
Yellowing, Brown Stain	<p>These unknown stains sometime appear after storage of articles. Use as many of the following as are safe for the fabric and are necessary. Follow this order.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wash.</li> <li>2. Use an oxygen bleach.</li> <li>3. Use method for rust stain removal.</li> <li>4. Use a chlorine bleach if safe for fabric.</li> </ol> <p>Do not use chlorine bleach on wash-and-wear fabrics unless label says it is safe.</p>



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\*Always use grease solvents in small amounts, and take care not to breathe the fumes. Avoid those containing carbon tetrachloride and those of an explosive nature. Use all solvents away from open flames. Store in a safe place.

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